

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 IO-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SY-10 RSR-01 SR-02

ORM-03 /117 W

----- 015947

R 091100 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6153

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T BLANTYRE 682

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PBOR, MI, PINR, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE AND FRELIMO ARMED INCURSIONS INTO MALAWI

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 302

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

WARNING NOTICE - SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED

1. NOTING LOURENCO MARQUES COMMENT PARA 4 REFTEL, EMBASSY
SUBMITS HERewith AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON PORTUGUESE
AND FRELIMO INCURSIONS. SENSITIVE SOURCES PRECLUDE WIDE
DISEMMINATION OF DETAILS.

2. ASSESSMENT BASED ON OUR SOURCES IS THAT PORTUGUESE
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INCURSIONS INTO MALAWI AVERAGE ABOUT 15-25 PER MONTH, NOT ALL OF WHICH ARE ARMED. ABOUT ONE- THIRD OF TOTAL MONTHLY INCURSIONS ARE UNAUTHORIZED OVERFLIGHTS. ABOUT HALF OF GROUND INCURSIONS INVOLVE APPEARANCE SMALL NUMBERS OF PORTUGUESE EUROPEAN OR AFRICAN TROOPS SEEKING ONLY INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE FOOD IN MALAWI. SMALL NUMBER OF GROUND INCURSIONS INVOLVES DISTRUCTION OF PROPERTY (USUALLY SUSPECTED FRELIMO) IN BORDER AREAS AND OCCASIONAL " KIDNAPPING" OF FRELIMO SUSPECTS. THESE TYPES OF INCIDENTS, WHILE OF CONCERN TO AND UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY OF MALAWI GOVERNMENT, DO NOT ORDINARILY LEAD TO FRICTION BETWEEN MALAWIANS AND MOZAMBIQUAN AUTHORITIES. LATTER USUALLY ARISES ONLY IN CASES WHERE PORTUGUESE EMPLOY UNUSUALLY CRUEL TACTICS OR KILL OR INJURE MALAWIAN CITIZENS. MOZAMBIQUAN AUTHORITIES NOW HAVE ASSIGNED OFFICER TO PORTUGUESE EMBASSY BLANTYRE TO LIAISE DIRECTLY WITH GOM AND INVESTIGATE ALL SERIOUS INCIDENTS PROMPTLY WITH VIEW TO PREVENTING PROBLEMS. LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS SUPPORT VIEW OF LOURENCO MARQUES THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE ANXIOUS AVOID PUBLIC AIRING OF OCCURRENCES INCLUDING MISINTERPRETATIONS SUCH AS APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN CONNECTION RECENT ALLEGATIONS OF PORTUGUESE- MALAWIAN BORDER CLASH.

3. FRELIMO ARMED INCURSIONS INTO MALAWI ARE ALSO OF CONCERN TO GOM WHICH ATTEMPTS TO KEEP CURRENT ROCORD OF INCIDENTS. UNARMED FRELIMO PRESENCE NOT RECORDED BY GOM WHICH REGARDS THIS AS ACCEPTABLE. ARMED INCURSIONS HAVE AVERAGED 5-10 PER MONTH IN PAST YEAR, MOSTLY OF SAME NATURE AS PORTUGUESE INCURSIONS EXCEPTING NATURALLY OVERFLIGHTS. WE ASSUME GOM RAISES WITH FRELIMO MORE SERIOUS OF THESE INCIDENTS; HOWEVER WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF EXACT CHANNEL IN WHICH COMPLAINTS ARE HANDLED. LOCAL FRELIMO OFFICE AND REPRESENTATIVE IN BLANTYRE APPEAR TO BE MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF REFUGEE SUPPORT AND RECRUITING FRELIMO TRAINEES FROM AMONG REFUGEES FOR DISPATCH TO TANZANIA. SO FAR AS WE NOW KNOW LOCAL OFFICE IS NOT INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS OR OPERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM ON BORDER PROBLEMS. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE GOM- FRELIMO POLICY DISCUSSIONS ARE CARRIED ON BY GOM SPECIAL REPS WITH FRELIMO OFFICIALS IN DAR ES SALAAM.

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